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MINEDUC and USAID launch 2015 writing competition and present 2014 winners

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Kigali – On Tuesday, May 26, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) through the Rwanda Education Board (REB) will launch *Andika Rwanda 2015*, a national competition for writing stories and poems for children. The launch will take place at the Umubano hotel of Kigali in conjunction with the General Assembly of Rwanda Reads. The second annual competition will be conducted in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative implemented by Education Development Center (EDC).

Andika Rwanda was born from the need for Rwandan children to have access to enjoyable reading material written for them, in the Rwandan context, and with Rwandan values. At the same time, the competition encourages Rwandans of all ages to write and to create.

In the 2014 competition, over 3,300 submissions came in from all 30 districts. Students as young as P1, as well as teachers and community members, wrote clever stories and poems, some of which were accompanied by beautiful illustrations. The winning students and adults from the 2014 *Andika Rwanda* will be presented at the 2015 launch event, and their published volumes will be shared.

All Rwandan primary students, secondary students, and adults are eligible to participate by writing stories or poems in English or Kinyarwanda for primary school children to read. Teachers will provide primary and secondary students with information and will collect their submissions, while sector, cell, and umudugudu officials will be tasked with informing adults in the community. Adults will submit their stories and poems to their sector office.

National winners from each group—primary students, secondary students, and adults—will receive a trip to Kigali for a writing symposium and awards ceremony where they will be presented with prizes. Their stories and poems will be professionally edited, illustrated, and published.

The launch of *Andika Rwanda 2015* will occur in conjunction with the Rwanda Reads General Assembly. Rwanda Reads is a platform for networking, coordination and information sharing to foster synergies among stakeholders in the promotion of reading. The General Assembly is an opportunity to learn about and celebrate literacy initiatives in Rwanda. The main purpose of the May 2015 General Assembly is to increase the quantity and quality of the reading activities ahead of International Literacy Day and coordinate these activities. For more information about Rwanda Reads and how you can get involved, visit www.rwandareads.org.